

Application No. 10/773,023
Amendment dated December 11, 2007
Reply to Office Action of September 11, 2007

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Docket No.: 60816(71719)

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are currently pending. Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 10 are amended herein. Accordingly, Claims 1-10 remain pending after entry of this amendment.

Support for the amendments herein is located throughout the application as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Applicants wish to point out that the claim amendments presented herein are subsequent to the Preliminary Amendment filed on December 3, 2004.

INFORMALITIES

Applicants amend Claim 1 address the objections to informalities in the claim. With regard to the proposed deletion of "when," Applicants note that the word "where" denotes a position in which two conditions are met. Both of these conditions are preceded by "when." A colon is added after the word "where" to clarify this structure.

Applicants also amend Claim 2 address the objections to informalities in the claim.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-4, 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent 5,835,201 to Itano *et al.* (hereinafter "Itano"), U.S. Patent 6,982,816 to Kurosawa (hereinafter "Kurosawa '816") and U.S. Patent 6,714,324 to Kurosawa *et al.* (hereinafter "Kurosawa '324").

A *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be formed at least because the references to not teach or suggest a device wherein each of the first frame group and the second frame group, having half of the frames of the strip film, is contained in the reading area as recited in Claims 1, 5, and 7.

The Office Action asserts that Kurosawa '324 discloses the above feature. However, Kurosawa '324 only discloses that two films (200a and 200b) and two holders (201a and 201b), differing from each other in size and corresponding to films 200a and 200b, respectively. Accordingly, Kurosawa '324 does not disclose two frame groups of one-strip film.

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Neither Itano, Kurosawa '816, nor Kurosawa '324, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the subject matter of Claims 1, 5, or 7. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 5, and 7, as well as Claims 2-4, which depend from Claim 1.

Claim 3 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Itano, Kurosawa '816, and Kurosawa '324, in view of U.S. Patent 7,106,480 to Huang (hereinafter "Huang").

As discussed above, Itano, Kurosawa '816, and Kurosawa '480 do not teach or suggest a device wherein each of the first frame group and the second frame group, having half of the frames of the strip film, is contained in the reading area as recited in Claim 1, from which Claim 3 is dependent.

Huang fails to cure this defect. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 3.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Itano and Huang.

As discussed above, Itano does not teach or suggest a device wherein each of the first frame group and the second frame group, having half of the frames of the strip film, is contained in the reading area as recited in Claim 5, from which Claim 6 is dependent.

Huang fails to cure this defect. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 6.

Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Itano and Kurosawa '816.

Itano and Kurosawa '816 do not teach or suggest a preview unit that previews the frames of the read strip while changing the display order and the rotation direction of the frames as recited in Claims 8 and 10. The Office Action states that Itano discloses this feature. However, Itano only discloses that the scanned range is set to be laterally long or vertically long in accordance with the insertion angle of the holder 10, for example, in the 0 degree direction or the 90 degree direction as shown in Figs.

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8(A) and (B). Therefore, Itano does not disclose the display order an the rotation direction of the frames.

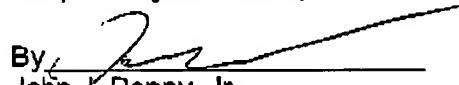
Neither Itano nor Kurosawa '816, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the subject matter of Claims 8 or 10. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 8 and 10, as well as Claim 9, which depend from Claim 8.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants believe that no fees are required for entry and consideration of this paper. In the event that any additional fees are required for entry and consideration of this paper, Applicants hereby authorize the Director to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 04-1105 referencing docket no. 60816(71719)

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Respectfully submitted,

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